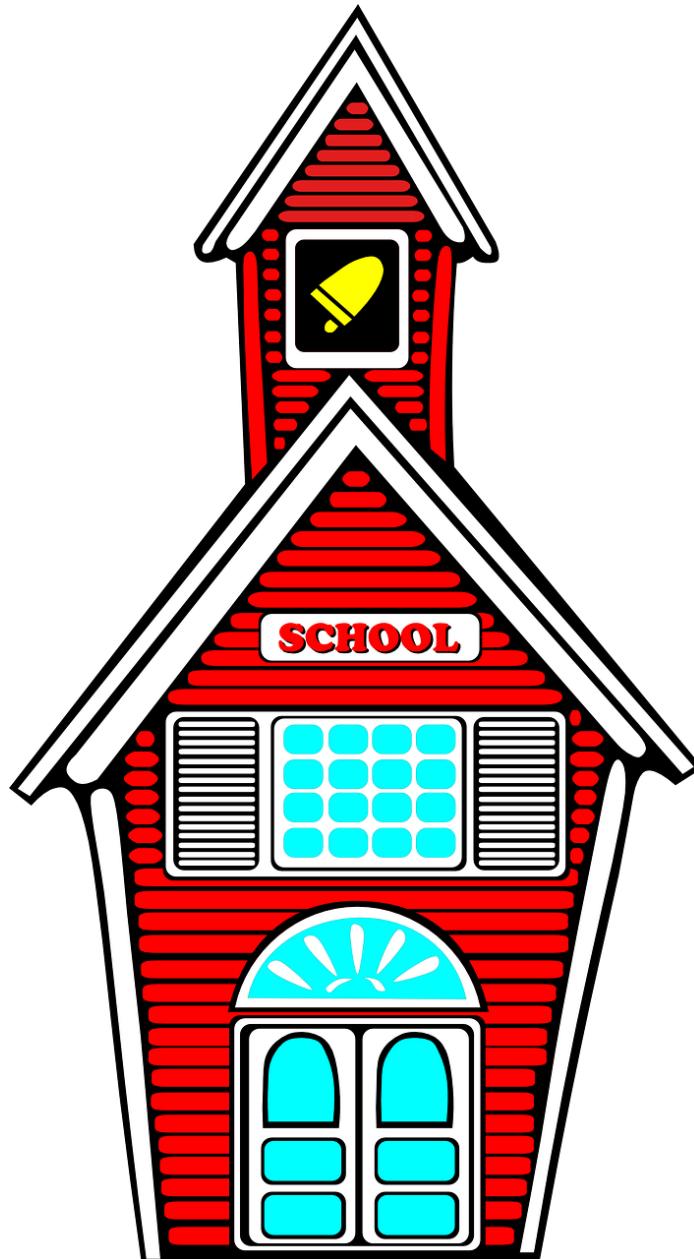


Bethesda Elementary School  
**LITERARY MAGAZINE**  
Spring 2022





# **BETHESDA ELEMENTARY**

Thank you to all of our contributing writers!

The views expressed by the authors of the works included in this publication do not necessarily express the views of Bethesda Elementary School or its teachers, staff, or students.

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# Flowers

By Ellie Isabel Barash, Grade 2

Flowers, flowers  
So many pretty shapes and colors  
When springtime comes it will all be redone.  
Beautiful flowers will bloom, glowing brightly  
And the pollen will come like confetti shining on you.



# Cool Clouds

By Charlotte M. Flannery, Grade 2



The sun is a bright ball,  
But I like clouds.  
They do cool things.  
A raindrop is a blue oval.  
They come from clouds.  
Snow is pretty.  
They are pretty little shapes.  
They also come from clouds.  
Cloudy days are like fluffy days.  
Clouds are fluffy cotton balls  
Like cotton candy.  
Even though they are water,  
They look fluffy!  
Clouds can make the weather beautiful.

# Be Yourself

By Noa Makleff, Grade 5

Be yourself and no one will care,  
What you do with your clothes or hair.  
Always looking for others' critique,  
Never being yourself, just be unique!  
Caring about what others see,  
But being yourself is what's key.  
Try something new once in a while,  
Do something fun or change your style.  
Follow your dreams  
No matter how impossible they may seem  
You are unique and amazing like no one else,  
You get the exclusive permission to be yourself!



# The Book Haiku

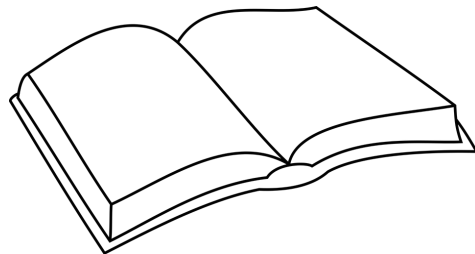
By James Bailey, Grade 3

Books are the best things  
Books open doors to new worlds  
Books are super fun!

Books about the sea  
Books about faraway lands  
We all learn from books!

Fairy tales and myths  
Legends about brave heroes  
And true stories, too!

As you all can see  
Books are very important  
Because we love them!



# Happy Birds!

By Sudheeksha Koduri, Grade 1

There was a Mommy bird,  
singing on a tree, flying happily in the sky,  
laying her eggs in her happy home,  
playing in the grass, waiting for her eggs to hatch,  
finding food for her babies,  
This is the happy life of a Mommy bird!



The eggs hatched and the Mommy bird was so happy!  
All the babies were happy!  
All were playing hide and seek,  
They were hiding in the nest,  
and Mommy bird was chirping to find them,  
Then O la, she found them!

One day the baby birds were flying up in the sky,  
playing in the grass, singing on a tree,  
just like their mom!  
This is the life of a happy family!





# The Love Song

By Robert Bailey, Kindergarten

I love my friends.

Yes I do.

Love! Love!

They play with me  
and make me laugh.

Love! Love!



I love my family.

Yes I do.

Love! Love!

Daddy is silly and fun  
My brother is nice and kind (usually).

Mommy is the best of the best!

Love! Love!



## **About the Universe**

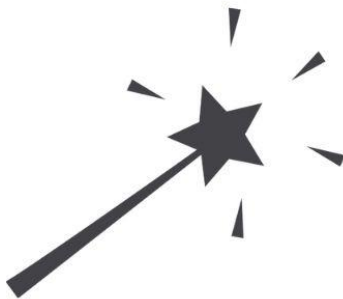
**By Advik Singh, Grade 1**

The universe is great!  
The space is full of stars,  
one of them is the sun.  
The universe was formed by the Big Bang.  
Space is just like a map of the universe.

## **The Worst That Could Happen**

**By Mia Silverman, Grade 2**

The worst that could happen is meeting you.  
You tore my world apart, I didn't know what to do.  
All I knew was that you were cuckoo.  
So I cast a spell on you and hoped that only good is what you would do.



# Teachers' Secrets

By Kaja Tevdovska, Grade 4

Once upon a time, there was a girl named Lori. Lori lived in a small town named Vixenten. She was 8 years old and loved school. In fact, she and her friends Nick and Mari stayed in the library after school. One day, they got a huge science project so they went to the library to make it. When they got to the library, Miss Bumble, the librarian, gave them a book for the science project. When they finished the science project, Nick and Mari ask Lori to put the book back. When she put the book back, she accidentally pushed a book that opened a weird place that had a lot of potions and bottles that were labeled as Knowledge for Teachers. Lori got her friends and showed them the secret room. When they got in, they heard footsteps, so they quickly hid under the desk. After that, they heard their teachers' voices so they stayed hidden under the table until the teachers were gone. Finally, the teachers left so when they got out of the secret room the bottles were empty. The next day Lori and her friends went to the library to steal the knowledge bottles for the teachers. From that day forward the teachers never showed up and nobody knew what happened to them.



# Adele and the Witch

By Aanya Garg, Grade 5

Once upon a time, there lived a girl named Adele. She and her father were very poor. Adele was very curious and loved wandering around her neighborhood. One sunny day, her father asked her to go into town and trade their cow for a couple of clothes. Adele skipped to town with her cow. She came home with a flower in a clay pot. "Did you get some clothes?" her father asked. "No, but I got this pretty flower. The guy who sold it to me said that it would give us clothes. Isn't this great?" She told her father. "No! You just got scammed, Adele!" Her father yelled and walked inside muttering something under his breath.

The next morning, Adele decided to plant the flower inside the soil. Her father came out and told Adele to go into town again and trade their pig for some clothes. She came home with some plant food. "Did you get the clothes?" he asked her. "No, I got some plant food for the plant that's going to give us the clothes!" Adele replied. "You just got scammed again!" Her father screamed and walked inside muttering something under his breath.

The next morning, Adele decided to feed the flower the plant food. Her father came out of the house. "Adele, I want you to go into town and trade our chicken for some gold coins." Adele happily galloped away with the chicken. When Adele came back, she was holding a watering can. "Adele, did you finally get what I asked you to get?" he asked. "No, but I did get a watering can so we can water the plant.

Isn't that neat?" Adele said. "No!!!! You got scammed!" her father yelled, ran inside the house, and slammed the door.

The next morning, Adele watered the plant. She went in for breakfast when suddenly, the ground started to shake. She ran outside and saw her pretty flower growing straight up towards the sky. When it stopped growing, she put her shoes on and climbed up the flower's broad stem. She climbed for what felt like forever until she reached the clouds. There was a castle as big as a mountain. Adele knocked on the door and heard a squeaky voice say. "Oh! Who could that be? A new friend? I am quite lonely." Adele instantly thought that this person was very nice.

The door opened and Adele looked up. She saw a hideous witch taller than a tree wave to her. "Who are you dear?" the Witch asked Adele. "I am a girl named Adele from land," Adele responded. "Would you like to be my friend?" the Witch asked Adele. "Um, Okay!" Adele said. They played catch with a ball for a little while and then things started to get weird. "Can I go back to my house now?" Adele asked the Witch. "No! You are my friend so you have to stay in the cloud kingdom for the rest of your life!" the witch said. Adele started to run and she scurried down the flower. "You will regret it!" the witch called after Adele.



The next morning, Adele remembered how she had seen the Witch's wardrobe in the castle. "I am going to get us clothes, Father!" She yelled through the house hoping her dad could hear her. "Finally!"

he called back. Adele climbed up the flower stem and snuck into the castle. She grabbed all the clothes she could carry and scurried down the flower again. Her father was overfilled with joy! "Finally! Some clothes that do not have holes in them!" he cried out joyfully. In the following days, she stole gold coins, diamonds, jewels, and many other valuable things. Soon their house was full of treasures.

The next day, Adele went to steal something else. This time, the giant witch caught her. "Hahaha," she cackled, "I have caught you and now you will pay for stealing my things! We will have to be friends forever and you have to stay in the cloud kingdom with me. Or else!" "Why do you want me to stay? Why do you want me as a friend forever?" Adele asked the witch curiously. "I don't have any friends and I am quite lonely," the Witch said. "I want somebody to play with me. Staying in the castle is quite boring and I am starting to feel sad about all this."

Adele and the witch had a long talk. At the end of this talk, there was a final decision. The decision was that Adele still lives on land but visits the Witch to play. Adele told her father and he agreed. Adele, her father, and the Witch lived happily ever after.

# The Ghosts of Elephantis and the Green Blobbed Ghost

By Luca Borrelli, Grade 3

The ghosts of Elephantis are kind, monster ghosts who hover to walk. They cannot fly and they cannot phase through things like ordinary ghosts. They have a ghost body and a giant elephant nose. They live in Elephantis, a town full of these ghosts in the middle of the woods known as the Devil Forest with various paths where they can take their daily hover walk. On this day, two ghosts of Elephantis, Ella and Phant, are walking through the Devil Forest. Ella and Phant see deep red trees. The sky is dark gray. The forest gives them new abilities—they are stronger and faster as they walk.

The two ghosts wander a path on their daily walk outside only this day they picked a different trail than usual. Phant warns Ella about a tree he thinks they'll pass that is dangerous. "What does it do?" asks Ella. "It tries to eat you," he replies. As they walk, they see a very large dark green tree with hints of red. It is different from the usual red trees of the Devil Forest, "What is that?" Ella asks hesitantly. "That's the tree that I told you about. RUN!" Phant screams.



The tree begins to chase them. The ghosts run as fast as they can, avoiding tree roots along the way. The giant tree, however, is too large to avoid the roots. While Ella and Phant cross over a little bridge, the tree trips and falls onto it, causing it to break under his weight and

sending him down landing with a giant splash in some purple water. Ella and Phant feel relieved. The two walk on and after a little while they come across an abandoned house. They look behind them and realize that all of the ghosts of Elephantis have followed them there.

The house is large with broken windows and damp wood, creaky floors, and mossy bricks. All of the ghosts of Elephantis enter the abandoned house. Inside they meet the green blobbed ghost, a green, bright blob. They come upon him while exploring the house. They are afraid but quickly realize that he is nice because he welcomed them into his house. They plan to put a carpet somewhere and start sewing one, but the green blobbed ghost puts a nice carpet down for them so they do not have to sew it. The carpet is bright green and it looks like the green blobbed ghost. All the ghosts get hungry so they sit down to get some food and eat dinner. The ghosts of Elephantis have luckily packed some snacks so they all share the snacks and eat their dinner together. Then, they sit down and relax and get ready to journey back to Elephantis before it gets dark. They promise the green blobbed ghost that they will return again soon.

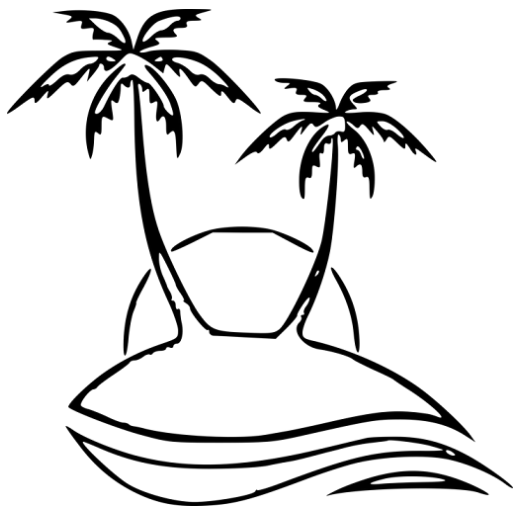




# Baba

By Oliver Han, Grade 2

One day, Baba the Woofy decided to go on a hike. He packed up and headed off. He found a desert. Baba almost fell into a pit of rattlesnakes and got pricked by a cactus. He found an oasis where he refilled his water bottle. Next, Baba saw a giant lake. He couldn't go



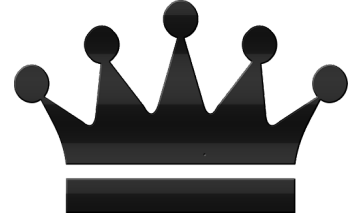
above it, below it, or around it. He was about to give up when he saw a boat. He got on it and rowed for three days and nights until he reached an island. There, Baba found some buried treasure with lots of gold inside. As he went through the island, he saw a volcano. Luckily, it wasn't active and he went on. It was very cold. Baba saw snow and ice everywhere. He climbed a tree to see around. He saw

mountains one way, and a forest another. There were bears and wolves in the forest, and Baba was terrified of those things. So he went to the mountains. Baba saw some giants, and he was even more terrified of giants. He ran and ran and ran until he was back home. Baba wasn't going on another hike anytime soon.

# Bob Joe

By Isabel Puente, Grade 4

The day was cloudy and humid. Inside a tiny builder's hut, there was a construction worker. His name was Bob Joe. Bob Joe liked his job, but he wished for something better. Something bigger. He wanted to be king.



He came from a small, poor village out north. Each winter, he would bring wood and coal to each home. Each house would give him a small fee for the supplies for their fireplaces. After seven years of saving every cent, he got enough money to travel to where the palace was and pleaded to the king about his case.

The selfish king, King Frantico, got angry at Bob Joe. "What is your name, peasant? You shall be punished for such an outrageous request! The only way to royalty for you, is marrying into it! And that won't work!" King Frantico barked and kicked him out.

At first, Bob Joe was so disappointed. He even thought of returning back to the poor village. But two things stopped him. 1) He was determined to succeed, and 2) He didn't have money to return. So he thought about what the king told him. "Marry into it," Bob Joe repeated and smiled. He was about to take his plan into action.

First, he dressed in his finest clothes and he got a haircut that made him look very, completely different. Then he traveled back to the

palace under the name of Jerry Bob. The king let him in, and he started to tell lies.

"Hello, Your Majesty. My name is, um," Bob Joe mumbled and looked around, then repeated the sentence.

"My name is Jerry Bob. I would like to tell you that your daughter should use some enrichment in subjects. I am a well-renowned scholar and tutor, so I am requesting you to allow me to teach your daughter. Perhaps I can dream that a man of your importance would allow it?" Bob Joe said in his most royal voice.

King Frantico was delighted by the pleasantness of Bob Joe and accepted his business proposal. Best of all, he was paid plentiful amounts of money each week. He sent a quarter of his paycheck to his family, and they never got hungry.

Bob Joe worked each afternoon as a tutor to the princess, princess Ava Frantico. He admired Ava deeply for her smarts and skills in the tennis area of knowledge. "I must say, I'm impressed by your tennis expertise!" Bob Joe admitted one morning at breakfast. Ava blushed. "Why, thank you! I like your expertise, too!" she said, almost too sweetly. Her pink dress matched the color of her cheeks at that moment.

Eventually, Bob Joe told her the truth, and Ava sobbed at his feet. "Why must this always happen? Why do all these people deceive me?" Ava cried, tears escaping her eyes. Bob Joe comforted her and made her promise not to tell anyone.

Bob Joe never got to be king, but his family, for many years to come, worked as a scholar for the royal families. Though he didn't achieve his original goal, he was content with his job, and, to him, it was the best job he could've hoped for.

## **Adam Thielen**

**By Leo Randazzo, Grade 4**



### **Journal Entry One: College and High School**

In 2004, I mostly focused on basketball and my plan was to get a scholarship to play basketball in college, but my high school football coach refused to let me play basketball and put me back on the football team. He wanted me to get a scholarship and play football in college. He said I was so good because of my amazing hands, height, ball skills, and concentration. He was right, I played in high school and got a scholarship to play Special Teams at Minnesota State.

### **Journal Entry Two: Draft Day**

The night was 2013 - the NFL Draft. It was the last round and there I was hoping to get drafted after all my hard work at Minnesota State. It was the last pick. My heart was beating out of my chest, "And in the last pick in the 2013 NFL Draft, the Miami Dolphins select Cornerback Darrelle Revis." My heart sank. There I was sitting there realizing that my whole childhood playing sports was for nothing. Then, it was the week after the draft and I heard a phone ring in my living room. I

answered the phone and someone said, "Hello, Adam Thielen, this is the Minnesota Vikings. We would like to sign you a contract." "Yes! Yes! Yes, I would love to join your team." He ended the call. I jumped up in excitement! My NFL career started at that moment.

### **Journal Entry Three: NFL Star**

In 2014, I was known for my amazing Special Teams play. One night in 2015, I was devastated when I heard that my QB hurt his knee. He was out for the season so we had to trade him to the Philadelphia Eagles for Sam Bradford. "Welcome to the team," I said. "Yeah, I am so happy. It is just that I would like you at Wide Receiver. Can I talk to the Coach about that?" Sam asked. "Sure, I would love that," I replied. I was so happy to hear that the Coach switched me to a starting Wide Receiver and I made an instant connection with Sam Bradford. For the 2016 season, I caught 69 passes, 5 touchdowns, and almost 1,000 yards. I proved to everybody that I belonged in the NFL as a Wide Receiver.



# Miku and the Self Portrait

By Reena Veshi, Grade 4



It was May 13, 2022, my birthday. It was windy. My Grandma Mildred was coming from Salem, Oregon. My friend named Dakota also came over so we could hang out. It was going to be super fun.

As soon as my Grandma Mildred came, Dakota and I squealed because we were so excited.

"Ok girls, let's settle down now so we can open the presents," Grandma Mildred said.

We went upstairs to see what it was. The present was a portrait of me. It had a frame made of real gold and the picture was realistic and vivid.

"Wow, how did your grandma get a portrait that looks just like you?" Dakota said.

"It looks so expensive. Like it costs a lot of money." Dakota was right. Just then, we heard a loud squeak.

"What was that?" I said.

"Miku? I think it's coming from your portrait," Dakota said.

"MIKUUUU! Nice to see you!" the girl in the portrait said.

"How do you know my name?" I asked.

"Well it's easy. I'm you and you're me. That's how," the portrait said.

"Well if you're me, is your name Miku?" I asked.

"Nope. It's Magiku," the portrait said.

"Magiku? What an interesting name," I said.

"Yup. Because I'm magical and also iku is part of Miku. Get it?" Magiku said.

"Wait sorry to interrupt, but you had me at magic. What do you mean by magical?" I asked.

"Well it's hard to explain but I have powers and I can do anything," Magiku said.

"Wow! Does that mean that you can transport us anywhere?" Dakota said.

"Of course," Magiku said.

"Woah! Does that mean we can see places with your powers?" I asked.

"Yup," Magiku said.

"Awesome," Dakota said.

"But there is one thing I should remind you about," Magiku said.

"What?" Dakota and I said at the same time.

"There is this evil girl named Villimina. She's the greatest villain when it comes to magic," explained Magiku.

"Well, what can we do to stop her?" I asked.

"Well, first things first. Come inside the portrait and we can stop her," Magiku said.

Dakota and I stepped inside the portrait. We were glowing like stars.

"Woah," Dakota said as she twirled.

"Ok, where's Villimina," I asked.

"What are we waiting for? Let's go," Magiku said.

We walked and walked. We walked past trees and houses. We passed what seemed like a neighborhood.

"This is so cool," I said.

"You haven't seen anything," Magiku said.

"THERE'S EVEN MORE?" Dakota exclaimed.

"We're almost there," Magiku said.

"Wait a minute. This is a fork in the road," I said.

"I know. It's a trail," Magiku explained.

"Which way should we go?" Dakota asked.

"Well...HmMMM," Magiku took a second. "The truth is I don't know. I can't remember it for some reason..."

"Maybe we should follow our instincts," I told everyone.

"But what if our instincts tell us to go the wrong way and we end up somewhere else?" Dakota said.

"Well, there's only one thing to do," Magiku said.

"HELLO," we yelled as we knocked on doors.

"Hi," someone opened the door. She had red hair and green eyes.

"Hello. We are looking for Villimina. Do you know her?" Dakota said.

"SHHHH! People might hear you," the lady with the red hair said.

"Don't let anyone hear us?" I asked.

"Come with me, guys," the lady said.

When we walked through the door, we saw that her house was really beautiful.

"Forgive me for not introducing myself," the lady said. "My name is Ave."

"Nice to meet you," we all said.

"How do you know about Villimina?" Dakota asked.

"Because she used to live in our town," Ave said.

"What do you mean?" I said.

"Well, what I mean is," Ave said, "she used to live here and she would bring joy to everyone."

"What do you mean by joy? She's a terrible woman. She tried to hurt our world and tried to destroy entire cities," Magiku interrupted.

"I know. That's the weird part, but listen. When her boyfriend died, she grew weaker and weaker, and then her joy turned to pain. Then she turned cruel and was banished from here and by the time she left the town she turned her back on the people and the world," Ave said heavily.

"I mean, I guess it's not her fault," Dakota said.

"True," I said.

"IT IS TRUE," Magiku said. "SHE DESTROYED CITIES AND TOWNS AND BUILDINGS AND OTHER WORLDS."



"Magiku, calm down. It's not like that," Dakota said. "You know if someone loses a person that is important to them, like family or loved one, well that's really hard for them."

"But she hurt people," Magiku said.

"She didn't just hurt others," Ave said. "She also hurt herself."

"WHAT?" Magiku was shocked. "All the books say that she's bad. She's supposed to be bad."

"Well, the books are wrong," I said.

"We should be going. I think I know which way we should go now," Dakota said.

"Ok," Ave said.

We left her house and when we came to the fork in the road, Dakota said that we should go left because the left path looked like no one had ever been that way. Villimina would choose the path that no one else would.

"Is this the right way? Do you remember it?" I asked Magiku.

"Yes, it is. I remember it now," Magiku said.

"WE'RE HERE," Dakota exclaimed. There was a big teal mansion with pink doors. We rang the doorbell but no one answered right away. Finally, someone came to the door.

"Who are you?" a voice said. I expected it to be an old lady but it was a young woman that looked like she was in her twenties.

"We're here for Villimina," Dakota said.

"Oh, that's not my name anymore. My name is Mina now," the girl said. "Come in." Mina led us into her house. It was so pretty.

"So not to be rude or creepy," Magiku asked, "but how old are you?"

"I am 26," Mina said.

"Woah, you're still so young. You still have a long time to live," I said.

"Well, what happened to my boyfriend was dreadful. I can't get over it." There were tears in Mina's eyes.

"May I ask? What happened to your boyfriend?" Dakota asked.

"It all started when I met this boy named Benny in 12th grade. He was the sweetest and cutest boy in the world," Mina said. "We fell in love and we became a couple."

"Aww, that's so sweet." I touched my heart.

"But when he was driving back home one day he..." Mina's eyes swelled up and she took a big gulp.

"I am really sorry for what happened," Magiku said. "But why did you become a Villian?"

"I began searching for a life serum to try to bring back my boyfriend, but it didn't work and I couldn't bring him back and I never saw him again. So I became angry."

"I am really am so so so so sorry," I said. I felt my own tears but I held them back.

"Well Mina, we're going to bring you back to the world," I grinned.

My friends and I came up with a plan to make her sing ( she's really good at it ). Everyone would be so happy when she sings the song about her life. Everyone will know the truth about what happened and they will understand her pain and they will forgive her.

The next day, Mina sang about what she has been through and I announced who it was and everyone cheered for her and accepted her.

"Thank you for everything," Mina said to us as we were leaving.

"No problemo," Dakota grinned.

Dakota and I stepped out of the portrait.

"That was so fun," Magiku said.

"I know and we helped a friend," I said.

"Miku and Dakota, thank you for helping someone who was sad and alone. She really needed someone to make her day."

"If you ever need help, say the code word 'HAPPY DAY ' and I'll be right there," Magiku said. Then Magiku turned back into a portrait.

"Girls," my mom said.

"Hi," I said.

"Are you guys having a lot of fun?" my mom asked.

"YES," we both said.

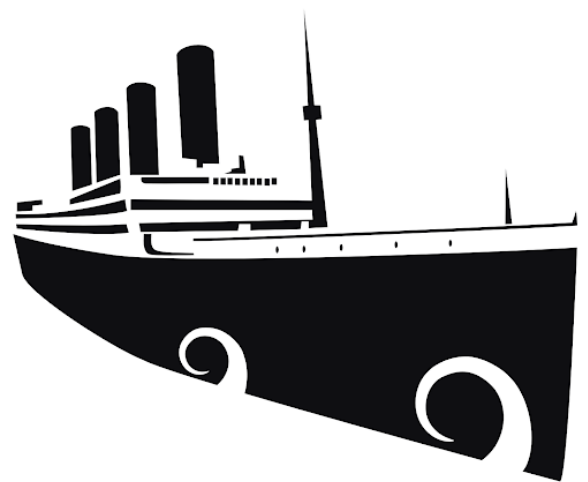
" Ok. Get some sleep," my mom said.

## **A Day in the Life of a Cabin Attendant on the Titanic**

**By Katelyn Silverman, Grade 4**

### **Prologue April 9, 1912**

Hi, my name is Mary Thomas, and I'm 20 years old. It is the night before I board the Titanic, at 9:00 pm exactly. Well, I'm going to be working on the Titanic as a Cabin Attendant! I was just so excited and worried too! What if I forget to bring my toothbrush! Maybe even my deodorant! I've learned from past experiences that nobody, especially first-class, likes a dirty cabin attendant! I could not go to sleep, I was so excited! I guess I have to go to sleep so I can be full of energy tomorrow! Goodnight!



### **Journal entry 1: All Aboard! April 10-11, 1912**

Dear Diary- Wait It 's not a diary! Guess I have to do this,  
Dear Journal,

Today I came onto the Titanic with a smile that reached ear to ear, I was so, so, so excited to be sailing on the "The Unsinkable Ship!" I was just walking up the ramp to the ship when I knew this was going to be the best trip I had ever gone on. As soon I get on the ship I start to look at the views, they are AMAZING!

A crew member came to get us cabin attendants and gave us a tour of the ship. In every room I stopped as I exclaimed either "Ooh" or "Ahh" or maybe even "So cool!" finally the only room I was not impressed with was my and three other cabin attendants quarters. It was as small as my apartment closet, and I had to share it with 3 other people! When I went in all I heard was groans until Annie, one of the cabin attendants said, "Wow this is huge compared to other ships I've been on! We have our own lockers!" That was when I knew, I just had to be friends with her. She was cool as a cucumber! Luckily, we got to pick our bunkmates and I of course picked Annie. "I would have picked you too!" she exclaimed! Then we went to the first-class bedrooms to get them ready. We were focused as ever until we started making the beds. When we touched the blankets they felt like a baby golden retriever, so, so SOFT! That was surprising because our mattresses were basically hardwood painted white! Anyway, then we started heading towards the second class hallway when we noticed that time had flown and we had to head back to our dorms. It was 7:40, and that was the time the first class had their lunch. The lunches were back to back and ended at 9:30-10:00. We would get their scraps if we were lucky. Not your dream dinner, right? Well, while my roommates and I were waiting for the first, second, and third class to finish, so we could maybe have dinner, then we played charades! Turns out that we were all so hungry that we all acted out foods from cucumbers to ice cream! Well finally we got to eat dinner, well after dinner I felt like I could eat an entire cow...bones and all...because all we had was one piece of bread and a grape tomato! When we were heading back to our dorm the whole way we were complaining and complaining all I heard was "Wasn't that ridiculous!" and "What The Heck!" through all of the chatter

me and Annie were exchanging addresses. Then I went to bed and put this entry in my journal. Goodnight!

### **Journal Entry 2: Home Sweet Work April, 11-12, 1912**

Dear Journal,

Annie and I are actually starting to hang out more! We talk on the floor of our dorms every night and I learned a lot about her! She is 20 years old-4 months older than me, this is her 4th time going on a ship as a cabin attendant, and she lives in Berlin, Germany. I'm also getting to know some of the crew members! The only things for now that I detest are all three meals of the day and work. I have to work from 7am to 10pm and throughout the whole day all I hear is "Do this," "Do that," "My room is hot," "My coffee is cold." It is so, so, annoying! When I am not working then I am hoping and praying that we will get more than just scraps for dinner. Well, this is a dream job compared to some of the jobs my friends have at home. One of my friends is a leech collector! It is just what it sounds like. Anyways, now it is 10:00 when first class is almost done with their lunch, so we have about 2 hours until we can eat! I'm just going to go to sleep because I have a feeling that we will not be able to eat a lot anyway and my eyelids were starting to get heavy. Goodnight!

### **Journal Entry 3: The Unsinkable Sinks April 13-16, 2022**

Dear Journal,

I'm soooooo tired. It's 12:37pm, and I can't believe I am writing this late but it is critical. It all started 42 minutes ago when I heard a "thud" and a little "crack" then I heard whispering and I picked up what I could reach. I heard "What are we going to do?" and "Oh, my, gosh!" Finally, I couldn't wait any longer. I quickly tiptoed across the hallway and overheard

people saying that the ship had sank! Finally, I walked into the room and screamed "What the heck happened!?" They turned around and stared at me like a hawk looking at prey. By that time all of the Cabin Attendants and crew members had woken up and came across the hallway and were all staring at me. I felt my cheeks turn red like tomatoes. Then the crew members who weren't sleeping explained what had happened and that we were going to have to evacuate immediately and get all of the passengers and lifeboats ready for a huge life or death adventure! About 20-30 minutes later we had rounded up all of the passengers and the lifeboats were ready. Our mouths were trembling with fear. I was wondering if we were going to risk our lives to save the passengers or if we were going to save ourselves and spare innocent lives? Finally, after waiting for what seemed like 2 million years, Annie and I headed for boat number 33 and set off in the endless water. About 30 minutes later we watched the Titanic sink. We kept trying to row to land but then we saw a woman in the water who must have fallen off the boat! Then one of the passengers exclaimed, "We need to look for survivors!" Then one guy who seemed to have a temper started arguing and said "No! Our lives are more valuable! Leave her!" We tried to convince him but he was stubborn as a mule! Finally, me, Annie, and the passenger just started rowing toward the woman in the endless water. Annie and I quickly tried to grasp her out of the water. We laid her down inside of the boat and tried to find a pulse. Luckily, she was alive but it looked like she had hypothermia. We had been sailing for 3 days now and we are starving and thirsty! All of a sudden, we saw a ship passing in the distance- A rescue ship for us! All of us were saying "Thank goodness!" and "I thought we were going to DIE!" We quickly boarded the ship and got wrapped up in towels and blankets. The woman who we rescued from the water was sent to first aid immediately. Annie and I were just standing there hugging each other in amazement-we had just survived a major event- "The Unsinkable Sinks!"

# The Fantastic Emerald Coast

By Alex Schreiber, Grade 3

Come with me to the Emerald Coast!! What is the Emerald Coast? The Emerald Coast is off the Gulf of Mexico. It is also off the panhandle of Florida. It's called the Emerald Coast because it looks green. Why is it green? It is green because there is a lot of plankton and algae. Do you know what's really relaxing? When I think of relaxing, I think of walking on the beach, suntanning on your towel, and looking at the children playing on the beach. That's exactly what my sister did. Next, I'm going to talk about fun. Three examples of fun are playing with the sand, playing in the sea, and playing with your toys. That's exactly what I did.



Finally, excitement at the sea. Three examples of excitement are going snorkeling, putting on a wet suit for the first time, and sea kayaking!! That's exactly what my whole family did! I saw fish, turtles, and even jellyfish. I made three pools and a sand sculpture. It was a gecko. Those are the three best reasons why I love the Emerald Coast!! Come down here and enjoy your time at the Emerald Coast.

# Savannah Becomes a Normal Person

By Lucie-Anne Helen Tarralle, Grade 4

Once upon a time, there was a Pretty Princess named Savannah. Savannah wants to be a normal person because the people in the kingdom look so elated all the time. Whereas Savannah is bored of being a princess.



One day a wizard appears and explains, "I can make you a normal person and you can be tickled with my pink ." Savannah becomes super chipper and confused and nods her head for some reason. So the wizard does his thing and then a loud noise is coming BOOM and Savannah becomes a normal person. But she did not know she had no clue that being a normal person would give her 28 sisters and 32 brothers.

Her sisters and brothers fought which made Savanna really bored so she would say "Can I be an only child but still have a normal life!?"

One of the sisters heard her and said "Lay on her knees and beg to leave this place because none of us want you here."

" I WANNA LEAVE BECAUSE OF YOU YOUR MEAN BOYS SOMETIMES GOSH."



So the wizard decided to help her since she had such a dramatic attitude.

After the wizard did some of his classy magic and the loud noise came again and BOOM Savannah had zero sisters and very lonely parents who had no friends and parents that always had to work at the garbage dump. She is devastated and goes on her knees and says "Can I please go back to having all my sisters and brothers? I am bored being all alone. I don't even have friends and I don't even trust my parents, they always take my food at dinner. Please can I have all my siblings back but can I still be a normal person?"

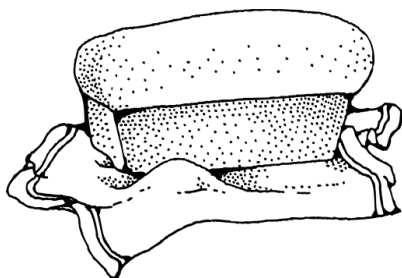
She says begging like a dog while crying. The wizard gets really mad but says "This will be your last wish, okay I'm being nice since you seem devastated so just please never say my name again."

The wizard does his classy magic again while doing a big sigh soon the noise comes again and BOOM.

# The Food That Came Alive

By Naura Garg, Grade 2

Once upon a time there lived a baker named Max. He was the best baker in the whole entire town. Everyone loved his pastries. He made bread, cake and so many other things. His wife Rose gave Max the recipes to bake in the shop. Each day Max would sleep in his bed and always look

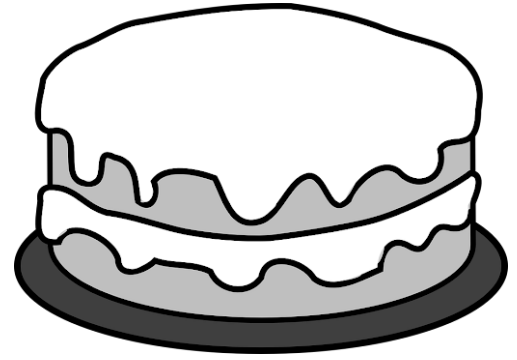


outside and see the bakery which was right next door. He would imagine the future of the bakery. One beautiful and sunny day. Max went to the bakery and saw Rose looking at old pictures of what they made in the past. "Let's get to work," said Max. "After, we can go for a walk," said Rose.

On the walk after the shop closed for the day, the wind started to blow. "It is getting late, let's go home," said Rose. "I have come back!" said a whispering voice. No one heard it at all. No one knew that the walk was a way that evil was able to come back to the town. One day while Rose was looking for recipes, she screamed! She found the "evil-come-alive" baking book. "No, no," cried Rose! Just then a voice came from the book. "I am here. I can now take over the world," said the book in a weird spooky voice. "Rose, I need that recipe now!" said Max. "Hold on," said Rose.

She rushed in the room with her high heels clicking on the ground. She had no recipe, then she found a recipe for a cake not noticing it came from the "evil-come-alive" cookbook! Max started to cook the recipe from Rose, then Rose looked at the recipe and realized it came from the "evil-come-alive" baking book, but it was too late to stop Max from making

it. He put the evil cake to cool down, then Rose tried to throw it away, but by then the food that came from the baking book was unstoppable.



The food started to wiggle and jiggle and legs and arms even started to come out! A twisty donut started running out the door and the villagers screamed. Each day more evil food would come alive so everyone would be scared to go into the bakery. That means Max and Rose **WOULD RUN OUT OF BUSINESS!!!** Then one day the bakery was empty and it was in the shadows. Inside, Max and Rose were crying. The food started to go to the food master's lab. "I demand you to take over the world, Ha Ha Ha," said the Food Master. "Sure we can do it," chanted the food. Rose told Max that it was an honest mistake of getting the wrong recipe, and Max forgave her.

The food started to go to the volcano of doom. They planned on spilling the lava on the town so then they could live there, without humans. No one knew that one food was trying to help Max and Rose. Then the food started racing up to the volcano with their protective suits on. Then they totally forgot the lava paddles and their floats. So they went back to the lab to get them.

Then the food master was waiting "Where is Twist Donut?" said the Food Master. Twist Donut was the one who was trying to help. The master found out and he was very mad! He could not take away Twist Donut's powers. The food went back to the volcano steaming with madness. "You did not do what you were supposed to do" said one of the foods. "No," said

the Twist Donut in a strong voice. Just then Max and Rose came up, then they all had war!

Rose got hit in the stomach. THE FOOD IS COMING! Just then Twist Donut used his powers to stop the food. "YAY, WE DID IT," chanted Rose, Max and Twist Donut! "NO YOU DID NOT" screamed the Food Master. The second war began. The Food Master pushed Rose and Max down, not noticing Twist Donut was still there. \*\*Pew! Pew!\*\* Twist Donut saved everyone and the bakery was back in business. Rose threw out the bad baking book and the bakery and Max and Rose and Twisty Donut lived happily ever after. It was a very happy ending!

## The Pink Hat

By Jacob Dillon, Grade 4

I walked past an old man leaning against a pole on my way to school. I thought it was just somebody less fortunate than me but the more I thought about him the more I thought to myself about him. Then came recess. I went over to the pole and the old man was still there, like he was waiting for something. He moved and looked at me. I was frightened so I ran.



When I was walking home from school I saw him, standing next to the pole, but this time I saw a pink hat.

The man said "hello" to me. I was scared but was going to try to be tough so I asked him, "Why do you stand here all day?" He replied, "I have to guard the king's helmet." "Well, aren't they usually gold?" I asked. "Yes, but this one is pink," he said. "Why is that?" I asked. "Because I had to disguise it to look modern," he replied. So I walked home feeling proud of myself for being tough to a stranger. But kids, don't go and talk to strangers just willy nilly.

The next day I was planning on meeting the old man. He was going to take me back to his world called Hinerten! I couldn't wait and I was going to miss out on school! How great is that?

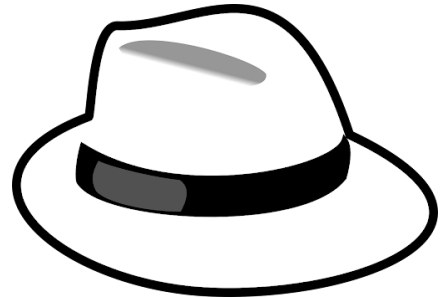
"I see the old man over there," I thought to myself. "Now, are you ready to go to Hinerten?" the old man asked. He started yanking on the pole trying to pry it apart. Then whoosh it opened! I wasn't sure what to do but I trusted the old man that I had met days ago. We stepped in together then we fell!

I opened my eyes and we were safely standing on the ground with villagers standing around us. "Hi," I said, kind of frightened. They ran over getting closer and closer. "He has returned!" called a villager. The old man explained that somebody had been trying to steal the King's crown and that's why he hid it in my world. Then he introduced me to the King, Prince and the Queen. They said I could stay in the guest bedroom. Then the old man led me to the room I would be staying in.

I started on my case to find who would want to steal the crown after a delicious breakfast. "Wow! I never knew being King ment you get treated so

well" I said to myself. And then it hit me, whoever wanted the crown wanted to be King! Now I had to find them fast because whoever wears the crown is the King of Hinerten.

I had to get back to the crown that was hidden as the pink hat! I had just jumped out of the portal when I saw a man in a black cloak. As soon as he picked up the pink hat it transformed into the crown. It was so beautiful I just wanted to stare at it forever, but I knew I had to return it to the King. The thief's black cloak flew off; it was the prince! I rushed after him. He couldn't, he just couldn't become King! So I leapt at him and I grabbed the crown and jumped back through the portal. Then he started chasing me! I got to the palace, "King, King!" I shouted. And there he was in the fancy dining room but instead of the King, there was a warlock!

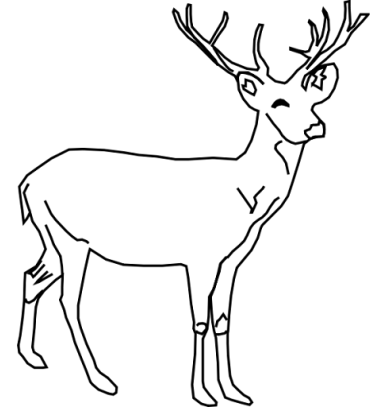


The prince was the good guy all along and must have known that the warlock had hidden the real King. I ran back to the prince, and handed the crown to him, and then I heard banging on the door. It was the real King. The warlock knew he was outwitted so he vanished into thin air. The king turned to the prince and said, "Based on what I just saw, I will retire so you are now the king. But you first need a crown." "But father, I don't want yours, because the warlock may come back for it, so I will put it on that pole as a monument to you." said the Prince. The prince's new crown was even more beautiful than the old King's crown. Everything was normal again in Hinerten, I said my goodbyes and went through the portal. On my way home I thought, "How am I going to explain not being at school to my parents?" So if you see the pink hat on a pole at Bethesda Elementary, you'll know it is actually the crown of Hinerten.

# The Story of Leaper and Lasher

By Cole Kahan, Grade 5

In a frigid forest where it never stopped snowing in the very middle of Montana, two deers named Leaper and Lasher lived with their large herd of deer. But the herd had way too many unnecessary rules! Their parents always said things like, "Not more than two helpings at the feast tonight my little deers." They would always reply, "But they said you could have three on the poster and they are going to have gourmet acorns." Sometimes, they even unintentionally did mean things, "Do this... Do that.....no not that."



The teen deer became VERY angry and reminded the parents, "We did what we were told." But the parents whined and then they screamed, "But you broke rule 10,547 sixteen times!" The most despicable rule of all was not to go to the half of the forest that was chock full of hunters. In their minds, it was so despicable, that the two teenage deer decided that some night soon they would go into the forbidden area under the cover of darkness!

A few days later, in the middle of the night, the teenage deer decided they had rehearsed their plan so many times they could have done it in their sleep. They were now definitely going to succeed! The pair of deer snuck out of their warm, comfortable and safe bed and slowly crept outside where it was snowing. They used the language they had come up with to communicate "Blob blorgal," whispered Lasher.

"Bog," replied Leaper in an abnormally happy way. (translation: "Let's have some fun," whispered Lasher. "Ok," Leaper excitedly replied.) They could do whatever they wanted. So the teenage deer had to use all of their VERY small amount of willpower to keep walking and not playing around in the snow. They were so happy to break the rules they just might burst with happiness.

"Big Bloop wob tobreed spooey," said Leaper. (translation: "I love all this glorious freedom," said Leaper.)

Finally, when they got to the other end of the snowy, cold forest they were about to take a bite of yummy moss when a net lifted them into the air and someone or something said, "Antlers up!" and suddenly a gun was being pointed in their faces like, well a gun.

Of course, their antlers whipped up faster than you could say "I'm in REALLY BIG trouble." They saw a large hunter with a black mask, shoes, pants, and jacket. Otherwise known as decked out in black. Plus, they had a sort of menacing laugh in their voice. If they tried to get away they would shoot. But then something happened. There was a HUMONGOUS stomping of hooves and over a thousand deer came stampeding out of the dark, thick woods and they ran over the hunter. "How ... but.... Where....." sputtered the brothers. But when they got back to the right side of the woods they were yelled at ("You could have died!") and then grounded for a year and a  $\frac{1}{2}$ .





# Tim's Adventure

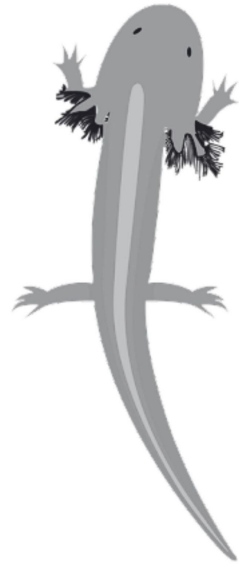
By Benjamin Kaufman, Grade 3

*One time an axolotl named Tim was swimming around. Then he became hungry, so he looked for some food. After his belly was full, he went to bed with his brother. They dug into some mud near some plants for a bed.*

The next morning, I woke up, but I saw something strange. I have seen strange things before that humans make, but this wasn't like those. Yes, I do feel this way every time I see a new strange thing, but there was something about it that was weird.

Then I decided to swim over. After that I got out of the lake, I walked over. But, a human dashed over. I quickly scuttled back to the lake, and watched from there. The human was on the smaller side. "It's a toilet!" the human cried. After that a larger human came chasing after him. He must have been his father. I only stayed with my parents for about three months, but then again humans are bigger, so maybe he is under three months old.

"Why is there a toilet here?" asked the kid, "I have no idea." the father replied. So, they walked away. Finally! I scurried over to investigate the "toilet". The toilet was big and white. Its shape was a tall rectangular prism. The other side was bowl shaped. I climbed up the part where the bowl meets the prism. That part was easiest to grip. I'm not saying toilets are easy to climb up but it is doable. The bowl was filled with bad smelling water and it had two lids. The lids probably were supposed to block the water's smell. I carefully grabbed the edge of the bowl and climbed across it.



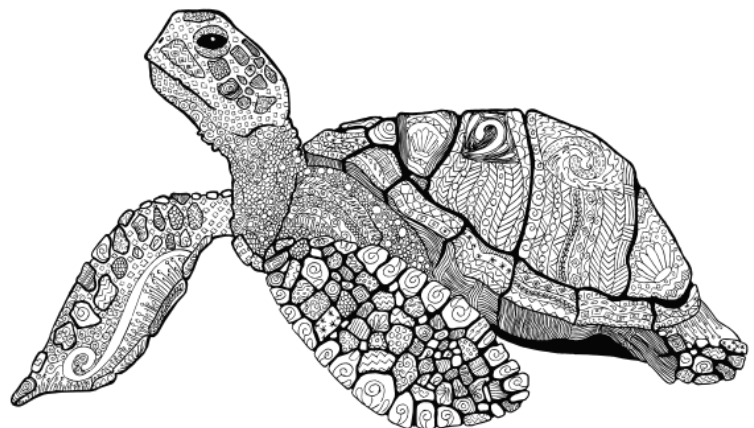
Finally after all the hard work I reached the lid. It was extremely heavy. It took eighteen minutes to close the lid. "SLAM!" The crash shook the toilet. Then I whispered "Whew, that was heavy." "CRASH" boomed the second lid. Now that the lids weren't obstructing my view I could see a silver thing. I'm naturally a curious axolotl so I climbed up the prism and jumped onto the lever. "Flushhhhhhhhh!" I could feel the rumbling "FLUSH!!!" This made the water shoot out of a pipe on the back. It hit a fish. It was silly, but then I felt bad for hitting the fish. "Sorry" I apologized. The handle sort of went down again for a second, then it came back up.

I decided to leave, because I didn't know anything about toilets, so I slid down the toilet. "FLUSH!" I was soaked with toilet water! The toilet must have just refilled with the water it had left. So, I went into the lake and washed off.

Then I saw a human racing across the water with something. I think they're called speedboats. I swam over and latched on "Hey," I greeted him. I must've caught him by surprise. I don't think he knew I hitched a ride.

He looked pretty stunned. I would be surprised if an axolotl just jumped onto my boat. Thought I should probably get off. I hopped off, but then I swam over to catch up with him to tell him I was a good axolotl and I was sorry about our bad experience. After all, I didn't mean to scare him, I just wanted to have some fun.

I then swam to the stick house I was building with my brother. Our house is next to a tree. The reason we're building a house is because some other fish wanted our spot in the

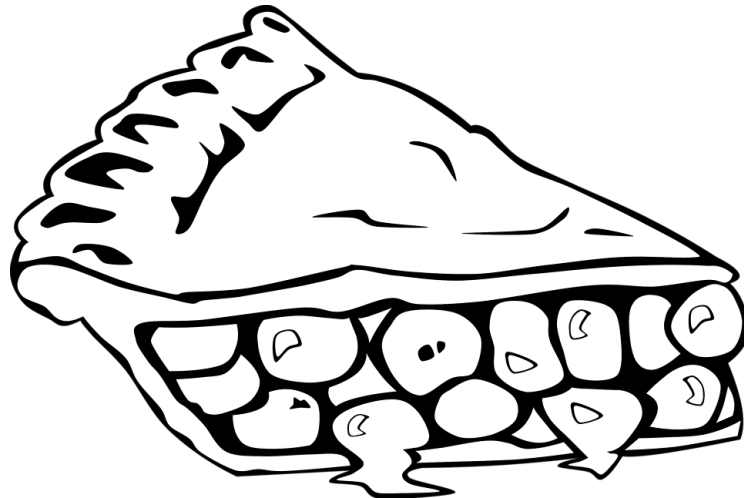


lake. "Hi," I greeted. "Hey," he replied. Then I told him about my big adventure. He thought it was funny when I went on the boat. Oh, also I forgot to mention my brother's name is Fred.

I decided to get some mud for the house. I walked into the water. Our house is right next to the shore so the waves won't sweep it up and it's right next to the lake.

Once I finally got the mud and was swimming back I dropped it. Dropping mud isn't bad unless you're underwater, but then a turtle swam over and caught it on his shell. "Thanks," I thanked him. "My name is Ted," He told me. "Do you have anywhere to sleep?" "Well," I said, "We do have one more spot in our stick house." "Can I have it?" "Sure you can," I said. "Who do you live with?" asked Ted, "My brother," I replied "Come on let's go." I told him.

When we got home I introduced Fred to Ted. Then I told Ted about my adventure. Afterward, Ted taught us to swim backward. Then we had pie underwater which totally defies the laws of physics. It was really awesome.



# Anna, Andrew, Bella, and the Lost City

By Vanessa Feifer, Grade 5

"Hi! My name's Anna, and that..."

"I'm Andrew, and I don't need Anna. Anyway, the other girl's name is..."

"ANDREW!! I'm in the FIRST grade now, and I can say my own name!"

And finally, I'm The Narrator. You can call me Bob. If you couldn't already tell, these three children are siblings. Anna's the oldest in 7th grade, followed by Andrew in 5th, and the last child is Bella in 1st. The date is March 3, 2020. Yes, the start of the

Coronavirus pandemic when everyone was naive about the danger. Anyway, the children were just now packing their bags to leave their current home, in New York City. The next day, Anna, Andrew, and Bella would... Sorry. You'll figure that out later.



"ANNA! ANDREW! BELLA!" The Nanny shouted upstairs.

"Oh, why am I always called last?" Bella complained.

Once they had all trooped downstairs, The Nanny continued.

"Yes, Ms. Nanny." The children replied in chorus.

"Good, because the limousine is outside and waiting for you to get in it and go to..."

Heh. I did it again. You'll have to find out where they're going when they get there!

As the children hopped in the sleek black car, Bella donned her unicorn sequin mask.

"REMEMBER GUYS, PUT ON YOUR MASKS!"

"We know, Bella." Andrew snapped.

As the limo drove them through the city, none of the children truly realized that they wouldn't be able to come back for years.